

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
255 Westminster Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400



UNITED STATES SENATE
* YOUTH PROGRAM *
EDUCATION • LEADERSHIP • PUBLIC SERVICE

Deborah A. Gist
Commissioner

To: Superintendents, Principals, School Councilors, and Social Studies Teachers
From: David V. Abbott, Acting Commissioner/General Counsel
Date: September 10, 2012
Subject: The 51st Annual United States Senate Youth Program

I would like to welcome you back as we begin another exciting and challenging school year and to let you know about an important scholarship opportunity for your students.

Juniors and seniors from your high school are eligible to participate in the 51st Annual United States Senate Youth Program. All 50 states offer this program, and Rhode Island has participated for many years. Each state selects two students to represent their state for a week of special activities in Washington, D.C., where the students interact with elected officials and with people in top government positions. Each student selected will also be awarded a \$5,000 scholarship. The students we have selected to represent Rhode Island have always reported that they enjoyed a unique and valuable educational experience.

The Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) will use a three-phase screening process, including a test, an essay, and an interview, to select the two student representatives and two alternates. Each school that wishes to participate must name a program coordinator who will be responsible for administering the test and the essay portion of this process at their high school.

With the United States Senate Youth Program season coming up, it would be great to integrate some of the aspects of the United States Senate Youth Program into your curriculum. We hope that if you incorporate this opportunity into your curriculum, more students may be motivated to apply for this program.

Telephone (401) 222-4600 Fax (401) 222-6178 TTY 800-745-5555 Voice 800-745-6575
www.ride.ri.gov

The RI Board of Regents does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, sex, sexual orientation, race, religion, national origin, or disability.

RIDE will need to know, by **September 17, 2012**, the name of the coordinator for each high school and where that person can be reached. An ***e-mail address for the program coordinator is mandatory***. Please e-mail that information to Dana Wilson, the program manager at RIDE, at Dana.Wilson@ride.ri.gov. Please be sure to include in that e-mail the name of your school.

I have enclosed a school participation form, a student participation form and further information about the program. Please submit one school participation form per school. One student participation form will be used as a cover sheet for each student's test; all forms must be referred to Dana Wilson by October 12, 2012.

If you have any questions about this program, please contact Dana Wilson at (401) 222-4690 or Dana.Wilson@ride.ri.gov. For more information or to download materials please go to <http://www.ride.ri.gov/commissioner> or <http://hearstfdn.org/ussyp>

This program can greatly benefit your students, and I hope that you will encourage them to apply. I wish you all the best for the 2012-13 school year!

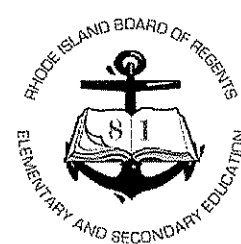
Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David V. Abbott', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David V. Abbott

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Rhode Island USSYP School Participation Form

The Rhode Island Department of Education is looking for students who are civic minded and are strong leaders in their school community.

Student Applicants

Name

Our school will participate in the 51st Annual United States Senate Youth Program. I have read the objectives and rules governing the program and I am submitting the names of the eligible student leaders in grades 11 and 12. These students have indicated that they would like to take the qualifying examination at this school anytime between Friday, September 28, 2012 – Friday, October 12, 2012 at the time and place selected by me.

RIDE will notify test administrators of the top 10% of test takers on Friday, October 19th. School coordinators will administer the essay portion of the test at their respective schools. The essay portion of this test can be given anytime between Monday, October 22, 2012 – Friday, October 26, 2012. At the conclusion, each school coordinator will e-mail students' essays to Dana.wilson@ride.ri.gov no later than 6:00 p.m. on Friday, October 26, 2012. Selected students will be invited to RIDE for interviews between Monday, November 12, 2012 and Friday, November 16, 2012. On Monday, November 26, 2012 the winners will be announced.

Please direct students to this website for more information www.USSENATEYOUTH.org

School Coordinator of USSYP applications _____ Direct Contact # _____

E-mail address of contact _____

Name of School _____

School Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

School Telephone _____ No. of Tests Needed _____

Close of Business on Friday, October 12, 2012
Please feel free to contact Dana Wilson with any questions at
401-222-4690 or at Dana.Wilson@ride.ri.gov.



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Rhode Island USSYP Student-Participation Form

The Rhode Island Department of Education is looking for students who are civic minded and are strong members in their school community. Selected students will receive a \$5,000 scholarship and a trip to Washington, DC, March 9 -16, 2013.

My school coordinator is _____

If you do not have a school coordinator please email Dana Wilson at dana.wilson@ride.ri.gov

Give this form to the USSYP coordinator at your school, it will be used as the coversheet for the qualifying exam administered between September 28 - October 12, 2012.

Student Name (Last, First, Middle)	Student's Date of Birth
Home Address (Street, City, Zip Code)	Student Home Phone (Include Area Code)
Name of Parent/ Guardian	Email Address of Student
School Name and Address (Street, City, Zip Code)	Name of School District
List Each Elected or Appointed Office(s) Currently Held	Applicant's Current Year in School <input type="checkbox"/> Junior <input type="checkbox"/> Senior
	Major Interests and Activities

Note to USSYP school coordinators: This should be sent with the student's qualifying exam to Dana.wilson@ride.ri.gov no later than 6:00 pm on Friday, October 12, 2012.